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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AM: 0790087-0107

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ACTION 86-25

INFO OCT-01 160-00 660-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 2443

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EXDIS

FOR DIRGEN BARNES AND NEA MIKLOS FROM CHARGE

E.O. 120651 DGS 2-25-85 (AMSTUTZ, J. BRUCE) OR-M
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, APER, AF, US
SUBJECT: (C) LEAK OF EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON
POST: MY PERSONAL THOUGHTS

REF: STATE 44554

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AT THIS TROUBLED TIME IN KABUL, I CANNOT ADEQUATELY EXPRESS MY ANGER OVER THE LEAK IN WASHINGTON OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL ACCOUNT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOW AMBASSADOR DUBS WAS KIDNAPPED AND KILLED. REFTEL REPORTED THAT, "CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES, DISTRESSED BY THE AFGHAN DENIALS AND U.S. NEWS ACCOUNTS FEATURING THE DENIALS, MADE THE CABLE AVAILABLE ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED". THESE SOURCES, WHO THEMSELVES WOULD NOT REVEAL THEIR IDENTITIES, HAVE BY THEIR ACTION OF LEAKING A CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT, JEOPARDIZED THE CONTINUED SERVICE AT THIS POST OF TWO OF MY KEY POLITICAL SECTION OFFICERS, BRUCE FLATIN AND JIM TAYLOR. THIS IS QUITE ASIDE FROM MYSELF BEING CITED AS THE APPROVING OFFICER OF THE MESSAGE. THE LEAK MAY HAVE BEEN WELL MEANING IN TERMS OF AMERICAN
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DOMESTIC POLITICS (SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT), BUT IT

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HAS HAD A SHATTERING EFFECT ON EMBASSY MORALE.

3. BY SEPTEL EARLIER TODAY, I LISTED THE SEPCTRUM OF RETALIATORY ACTIONS THE DRA MAY TAKE IN REACTING TO WASHINGTON'S DECISIONS TO REDUCE OUR AID PROGRAM AND TERMINATE OUR TINY MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM. AMONG THESE WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME OF US WILL BE DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE LEAK TO THE WASHINGTON POST. EVEN IF WE ESCAPE PNG ACTION (AND I FEEL THAT AT LEAST ONE OFFICER WILL LIKELY BE EXPELLED), I QUESTION HOW EFFECTIVE SOME OF US CAN HENCEFORTH BE IN DEALING WITH THIS GOVERNMENT. WE SHOULD KNOW IN A WEEK'S TIME.

4. IF ANY OF MY STAFF IS DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA, I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL TREAT HIM WITH HONOR AND GIVE HIM AN ASSIGNMENT HE CAN ACCEPT WITH RESPECT.

5. (IF MIKLOS HAS LEFT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER FOR NEW DELHI, PLEASE PASS THIS TO HIM THERE OR EN ROUTE.)
AMSTUTZ

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